

REMARKS

Claims 4 and 11-12 have been amended in response to the rejections under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 1-3 and 9 are allowed. Claims 1-4, 9, and 11-12 are pending and under consideration. This amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance, and entry therefore is respectfully requested. In the alternative, entry of this amendment is requested as placing the application in better condition for appeal by, at least, reducing the number of issues outstanding.

Entry of Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

The Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because the amendment does not alter the scope of the claims and places the application at least into a better form for purposes of appeal. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (M.P.E.P.) sets forth in Section 714.12 that “any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered.” Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that “the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified.” The M.P.E.P. further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 4 and 11-12 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Claims 4 and 11-12 have been amended in response to these rejections. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested and it is submitted that claims 4 and 11-12 are in a condition suitable for allowance.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, at pages 2-3, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-3 and 9 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10-1-07

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